



April 19, 2013

Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Daniel Ashe, Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C. Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary and Director,

WildEarth Guardians respectfully submits the enclosed petition and supporting references to list the Great Basin silverspot (*Speyeria nokomis nokomis*) as “threatened” or “endangered” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1544). This rare insect is dependent on wet meadows and riparian areas in otherwise desert environments. Habitat loss and fragmentation due to development, altered hydrology, heavy grazing, mineral extraction, and other human activities are the most severe ongoing threats to the silverspot. It has no legal protection at either the state or federal level, with the exception of populations within the Navajo Nation. Listing under the ESA is necessary to prevent extinction and facilitate efforts to recover the species.

Thank you for your timely consideration of the petition.

Sincerely,

Taylor Jones

cc: Helen Speights
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chief, Branch of ES Litigation Support
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 400B
Arlington, VA 22203